

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3844

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USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 5383

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MPOL, PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: INFORMAL MEETING ON STANDARDIZATION

REF: A. LONDON 14035 DTG 111520Z SEP 75 (NOTAL)

B. USNATO 4079 DTG 181155Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: ASYG (DEFENSE SUPPORT)TUCKER CALLED AN INFORMAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 1 TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS IN GENERAL AND THE US INITIATIVE IN PARTICULAR. DCM'S PLUS ONE FROM CANADA, FRANCE, ITALY, THE UK AND US DELEGATIONS WERE PRESENT, ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND CONSULT BEFORE THE NEXT NAC MEETING ON STANDARDIZATION, NOW PLANNED FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 13. IN OUR VIEW, THIS INFORMAL MEETING WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL IN CLARIFYING CERTAIN ISSUES AND IN IDENTIFYING NATIONAL POSITIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT THE COURSE OF NAC WORK IN STANDARDIZATION. CANADA HAD MISUNDERSTOOD THE FUNCTION OF THE PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE AND WE WERE ABLE TO CLARIFY, AT LEAST TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE CANADIAN

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DELEGATION. THE UK THOUGH THE CNAD SHOULD REMAIN THE PRIMARY BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR STANDARDIZATION, WITH ANY NEW STEERING COMMITTEE REPORTING TO THE CNAD. IN GENERAL, REPRESENTATIVES, APRT FROM ITALIAN, EXPRESSED CONCERN AT FORMING ANOTHER PERM-

ANENT, STANDING COMMITTEE UNDER THE NAC, AND THOUGHT THE STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD BE AN AD HOC ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD DISSOLVE WHEN ITS WORK COULD BE TAKEN UP BY A NEW OR EXISTING BODY, AT DISCRETION OF NAC. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND MISGIVINGS EXPRESSED AT TUCKER'S INFORMAL MEETING MAY BE SHARED BY OTHER ALLIES, AND WE THUS PROPOSE FOR WASHINGTON'S CONSIDERATION A LETTER TO SYG LUNS, WITH COPIES TO PERMREPS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD EXPAND OUR EARLIER PRESENTATION IN THE NAC AND ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY KEY POINTS. WASHINGTON MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER SIMILAR APPROACHES IN CAPITALS. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS BY OCTOBER 7. END SUMMARY.

1. ASYG TUCKER INTRODUCED INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION BY REFERRING TO NEW INITIATIVES BY EUROGROUP, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND THE US (REF A). HE NOTED THAT THE EUROGROUP'S WORK ON THE TWO WAY STREET WILL INVOLVE LISTS OF EQUIPMENT AND ALSO MECHANISMS FOR PROMOTING COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS AMONG EUROPEANS AND WITH NORTH AMERICA. EUROGROUP WILL BRING ITS PROPOSALS TO NATO, WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND. HE SAID THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IS EXAMING PROPOSALS FOR AN ORGANIZED ARMAMENTS PLANNING CYCLE, WHICH NATO WILL HAVE TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER. TUCKER THEN REFERRED TO THE US INITIATIVE IN THE NAC ON SEPTEMBER 17 WHICH PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEERING COMMITTEE TO SURVEY ONGOING WORK RELATING TO STANDARDIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PLANS.

2. TUCKER ALSO REFERRED TO TWO OTHER POSSIBLE INITIATIVES, INCLUDING (1) PROMISING WORK BY THE CNAD IN SEVERAL FUNCTIONAL AREAS AND (2) THE FRG VIEW, ADVANCED BY FMOD STATE SECRETARY MANN, THAT NATO NEEDS A MORE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH IN CONDUCTING NATIONAL ARMAMENTS PLANNING SO SELECTION OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS BY ALLIES WILL BE ON A MORE COHERENT BASIS.

3. GIVEN THESE INITIATIVES, TUCKER ASKED VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS. HE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT NATO NEEDS TO DEVELOP CLEAR-CUT POLICIES AND TO ESTABLISH GOALS IN STANDARDIZATION. CONFIDENTIAL

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TUCKER NOTED THAT THE OTTAWA DECLARATION WAS A POLICY STATEMENT AND PERHAPS NATO NOW NEEDS A FORM OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE ON STANDARDIZATION DERIVED FROM THE OTTAWA DECLARATION. OTHER AREAS REQUIRING ATTENTION INCLUDE THE NEED FOR ESTABLISHING A DATA BASE, POSSIBLY UNDER THE AEGIS OF CNAD; CLARIFICATION OF MILITARY MISSIONS AND REQUIREMENTS WHICH SHOULD DRIVE THE WEAPONS ACQUISITION PROCESS; ECONOMIC FACTORS; THE RELATIONSHIP NEW NATO WORK WOULD HAVE WITH RELATED EFFORTS BY MANY OTHER BODIES, BOTH IN NATO AND OUTSIDE SUCH AS THE EC AND WEU; AND THE IDEA OF A EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT AGENCY.

4. RETURNING TO THE US STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE, TUCKER THOUGHT THAT DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS MIGHT HAVE BEFORE

THEM A PROGRESS REPORT IN DECEMBER WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO ENDORSE CONTINUED WORK AND AIM FOR A THOROUGH REVIEW, WITH DECISIONS, NEXT SPRING. TUCKER THEN ASKED FOR COMMENTS, ESPECIALLY ON THE FUNCTION AND COMPOSITION OF THE US PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE.

5. ITALIAN REP (DCM SPINELLI) AGREED THAT NATO HAS MANY OVERLAPPING PROBLEMS, AND FORA, IN STANDARDIZATION FIELD. HE SAY ANY SOLUTION TO THIS DILEMMA AS INVOLVING TWO STEPS. FIRST, NATO MUST ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR INITIAL WORK. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE MORE DYNAMIC PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS. SPINELLI THOUGHT THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD BEGIN WORK SOON ON TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR), WHICH WOULD BE PART OF THE FIRST STEP.

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6. CANADIAN REP (DCM BACON) EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE US PROPOSALS AS A WHOLE. HE THOUGHT THAT NATO HAS MANY BODIES NOW CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROGRESS IN STANDARDIZATION, AND THOUGHT THAT A STEERING COMMITTEE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE STOCK AND DEVELOP PRINCIPLES, BUT WONDERED IF A NEW BODY HAD TO BE FORMED. INSTEAD, HE ASKED IF IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO RE-ENERGIZE EXISTING BODIES, AND PROPOSED A QUOTE GOOD HARD LOOK UNQUOTE AT THE NEED FOR A STEERING COMMITTEE. THEN, IF ONE IS NEEDED, THE TIMING ASPECTS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. IN ANY CASE, HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BEST TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE CNAD MEETING OCTOBER 28-30.

7. UK REP (DCM LOGAN) AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH BACON'S

REMARKS, AND FURTHER ELABORATED ON THE VALUE OF CNADS. LOGAN BELIEVED THAT, AS THE CNAD HAS IN ITS CHARTER PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATO STANDARDIZATION, ANY GROUP SUCH AS THE US-PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD REPORT TO THE CNAD VICE THE NAC. IF THE FIRST TASK OF THE NEW COMMITTEE WAS TO DEVELOP PRINCIPLES, THESE PRINCIPLES SHOULD PERHAPS GO THROUGH THE CNAD FIRST. LOGAN ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE NAC CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY DECISIONS ON THE US PROPOSAL UNTIL AFTER THE CNAD MEETING IN LATE OCTOBER AND AFTER THE EUROGROUP WORK WAS AGREED AND AVAILABLE, POSSIBLY BY EARLY NOVEMBER.

8. US REP CHARGE RESPONDED BY EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR A QUOTE POLITICAL OPTIC END QUOTE IN STANDARDIZATION WORK THAT NO EXISTING BODY COULD PROVIDE. IN THE PAST, THIS SAME POLITICAL NEED HAD LED TO THE CREATION OF OTHER NATO BODIES REQUIRING A POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE TO LEND MEANINGFUL NATIONAL SUPPORT IN AREAS SUCH AS FORCE PLANNING, WHERE THE DRC, FOR EXAMPLE HAS PLAYED AN INVALUABLE ROLE. FOR STANDARDIZATION, THE PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD BE A SIMILAR, POLICY-LEVEL SURROGATE FOR THE NAC. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT SENSITIVE POLICY ISSUES INEVITABLY WILL REQUIRE DELICATE HANDLING IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE NAC AND DECISION-MAKERS IN CAPITALS. AS FOR THE TASKS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE, CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT, IN US VIEW, PRINCIPLES SHOULD COME FIRST, WITH TOR FOR STEERING COMMITTEE BEING A LESS IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT. DRAFTING OF PRINCIPLES WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL WORK AND WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE CNAD CHARTER INTO FULL ACCOUNT IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF THAT BODY. CONCERNING PROLIFERATION OF COMMITTEES, CHARGE SYMPATHIZED WITH THE BASIC SENTIMENT AGAINST NEW BODIES, BUT AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT EXISTING BODIES, SUCH AS THE CNAD, CANNOT PROVIDE EITHER THE DAY-TO-DAY CONTINUITY OR THE POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE NEEDED TO DEVELOP A NEW AND WORTHWHILE NATO POLICY IN STANDARDIZATION.

9. CHARGE CONTINUED BY EXPLAINING THAT, IN ITS FUTURE WORK, THE STEERING COMMITTEE MIGHT LOOK INTO RATIONALIZATION OF EXISTING BODIES TO FACILITATE GREATER EFFECTIVENESS IN STANDARDIZATION. IN ANY CASE, THROUGH THE STEERING COMMITTEE, ALLIES WOULD BE ENGAGED IN AN ARDUOUS PROCESS OF SEARCHING FOR THE ANSWERS TO THE COMPLEX MATTERS INVOLVED IN STANDARDIZATION IN A POLICY-ORIENTED FRAMEWORK THAT COULD ADDRESS THE CRITICAL ISSUES AND PREPARE THEM FOR MINISTERIAL DECISIONS. CHARGE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT THE US HAD NOT SPECIFIED THE PERMANENCE OR TENURE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE, WHICH MAY ITSELF PROPOSE A MORE APPROPRIATE NEW OR EXISTING BODY, WITH NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE, TO CARRY OUT THIS WORK IN THE LONGTERM.

10. BACON EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CHARGE'S EXPLANATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTING THAT CANADA HAD MISCONSTRUED THE US PROPOSALS TO MEAN THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD BE TAKING ON WORK MORE RELATED TO EQUIPMENT, AND THEREFORE, INTERFERING WITH THE CNAD. HE THOUGH CHARGE'S POLITICAL ARGUMENTS CLEARED UP THIS MISUNDERSTANDING VERY WELL. IN A LATER CORRIDOR CONVERSATION, BACON INDICATED THAT HE SAW CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN THE US PROPOSAL AND NOW WILL ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY MATTERS FOR OTTAWA.

11. LOGAN, HOWEVER, PERSISTED IN HIS ARGUMENTS FOR CNAD PRIMACY. HE QUICKLY FOUND HIMSELF ISOLATED, WITH SPINELLI AND TUCKER JOINING WITH US CHARGE IN MAKING CLEAR THEIR VIEWS THAT THE CNAD WAS NOT THE BODY TO HANDLE THE POLITICAL, POLICY AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT HAVE IN THE PAST GREATLY RESTRICTED CNAD PROGRESS. NONE DISAGREED WITH LOGAN'S VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS STILL QUOTE IMPORTANT TO CARRY THE CNAD ALONG END QUOTE, THOUGH LOGAN SEEMED UNIMPRESSED BY ASSERTIONS BY OTHER REPS THAT COORDINATION WITH THE CNAD WOULD BE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT HIS REMARKS, LOGAN WAS ABIDING STRICTLY TO THE UK POSITION AS SET FORTH IN REF A AND PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED IN THE NAC BY UK AMB PECK (REF B). WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH FLEXIBILITY THE UK DELEGATION TO NATO HAS CONCERNING THIS CNAD PROBLEM, BUT WE WILL URGE PECK OR LOGAN WILL SEEK SOME. END COMMENT.

12. CONCERNING THE CNAD, TUCKER ADVANCED THE NOTION OF HIS ASKING THAT BODY TO FORWARD A LETTER TO THE COUNCIL OUTLINING BOTH PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS TO DATE AND SUPPORTING THE FORMATION OF A RESIDENT, HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE (VIDE STEERING COMMITTEE) TO ADDRESS THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS OUTSIDE CNAD'S PURVIEW. MOST REPS THOUGHT THIS APPROACH MIGHT BE USEFUL, BUT ONLY IF, IN LOGAN'S WORDS, THE CNAD WOULD AGREE. IF NOT, THIS TACTIC MIGHT PROVE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. IN ANY CASE, IT WOULD TAKE A MONTH TO BEAR FRUIT.

13. IN CONCLUDING INFORMAL MEETING, TUCKER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONSIDER THE US PROPOSAL FOR THE WORK OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE IN TWO PARTS, FIRST, THIS COMMITTEE WOULD TAKE STOCK OF STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITY AND ACT AS A DRAFTING GROUP FOR THE NAC, WORKING ON PRINCIPLES AND PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION. IN THIS REGARD, THE COMMITTEE MIGHT BE CALLED AN AD HOC GROUP  
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BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE TO PROPOSE HOW THE DAY-TO-DAY FOLLOW-THROUGH WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AND BY WHOM. SECOND, THE US PROPOSAL, WOULD INVOLVE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF A NEW ARRANGEMENT TO CARRY ON LATER WITH MORE DETAILED WORK IN STANDARDIZATION. TUCKER INDICATED HE WOULD WORK ON A PAPER SETTING FORTH THESE PROPOSALS FOR SYG LUNS TO USE AT THE NEXT NAC MEETING ON STANDARDIZATION, NOW PLANNED FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 13. IN THIS PAPER, TUCKER

WOULD ALSO PROPOSE THAT LUNS ASK THE NAC FOR A DECISION ON  
ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC STEERING COMMITTEE ALONG THE LINES  
DISCUSSED BY THE US.

14. FRENCH REP REMAINED SILENT THROUGHOUT THE MEETING, THOUGH  
HE TOOK COPIOUS NOTES.

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15. COMMENT: WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CANADA'S APPARENT MIS-  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND SUS-  
PECT OTHER NATIONS MAY HAVE SIMILAR MISGIVINGS. THE RELATIONSHIP  
WITH THE CNAD ALSO MAY NEED MORE COMPLETE EXPLANATION, AS WELL  
AS THE US VIEWS ON THE TENURE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE.  
ACCORDINGLY, WE PROPOSE WE BE AUTHORIZED TO SEND THE FOLLOWING  
LETTER TO LUNS, WITH COPIES TO PERMREPS AND CHAIRMAN MC, WHICH  
WOULD EXPAND OUR EARLIER PRESENTATION IN THE NAC AND CLARIFY  
THESE IMPORTANT POINTS.

BEGIN TEXT: SINCE THE INITIAL DISCUSSIONS ON STANDARDIZATION  
IN THE COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 17, WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL QUESTIONS  
ON POINTS RAISED BY AMBASSADOR BRUCE AT THAT MEETING. BEFORE  
THE COUNCIL MEETS AGAIN ON THIS SUBJECT, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD  
BE USEFUL TO EXPAND ON KEY ASPECTS OF THE US PROPOSALS.

FIRST, WE BELIEVE THERE MAY BE SOME CONCERN AS TO THE ROLE  
AND DURATION OF THE PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE. IN OUR VIEW,  
THIS COMMITTEE'S PRINCIPAL PURPOSE WOULD BE TO ADDRESS THE  
POLICY ISSUES WHICH NEED TO BE RESOLVED TO OPEN THE WAY FOR  
ENHANCED ALLIED COOPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION. AS AMBASSADOR  
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BRUCE STATED IN THE COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 17, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE COMMITTEE'S FIRST TASK SHOULD BE TO DEVELOP PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE EFFORTS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION. THESE PRINCIPLES, ONCE AGREED BY MINISTERS, WOULD ESTABLISH THE POLITICAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE WORK. WE BELIEVE STOCK-TAKING OF PRESENT NATO EFFORTS IN STANDARDIZATION ALSO WILL BE A NECESSARY PART OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK IN ORDER TO HELP ALLIES DISCERN HOW NATO EFFORTS COULD BE CONCENTRATED IN THE FUTURE. IN OUR VIEW, THIS STOCK-TAKING SHOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY, ALONG WITH INITIAL DELIBERATIONS ON PRINCIPLES.

FOLLOWING THE DRAFTING OF PRINCIPLES, WE BELIEVE THE STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION FOR MEETING THE ESTABLISHED GOALS AS SET FORTH IN THE PRINCIPLES. THIS PLAN NECESSARILY WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MANY EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS AND SET FORTH PROPOSALS FOR SUITABLE NATO INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAXIMUM LONG-TERM PROGRESS IN STANDARDIZATION. WHETHER A NEW MECHANISM IS REQUIRED, OR WHETHER AN EXISTING BODY WITH NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE IN THIS TASK, SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER, WE BELIEVE.

A SECOND CONCERN MAY LIE IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE TO THE CNAD. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT INTEND THAT THE NEW COMMITTEE TAKE OVER THE CNAD'S FUNCTIONS. INSTEAD, AS DISCUSSED ABOVE, WE SEE THIS COMMITTEE AS PROVIDING A MUCH-NEEDED POLITICAL DIMENSION WHICH WOULD COMPLEMENT, AND MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE, THE WORK OF THE CNAD. ALTHOUGH THE STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCIL, IT WOULD MAINTAIN VERY CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE CNAD, AND PROFIT FROM THAT BODY'S CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMENTS, AS APPROPRIATE.

ANOTHER AREA FOR CONCERN INVOLVES TIMING. THE UNITED STATES HOPES THE COUNCIL WILL AGREE TO FORM A STEERING COMMITTEE SOON IN ORDER TO ALLOW SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN DRAFTING PRINCIPLES FOR MINISTERS TO CONSIDER IN DECEMBER. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THAT IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE'S WORK WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL AFTER THE CNAD MEETING IN LATE OCTOBER AND THE EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING IN EARLY NOVEMBER. FOR THESE REASONS, THE STEERING COMMITTEE MAY BE REQUIRED TO FURNISH ONLY A PROGRESS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR FORWARDING TO MINISTERS IN DECEMBER. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THE STEERING COMMITTEE CAN BEGIN WORK NOW AND THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT DELAY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ESTABLISHING THAT COMMITTEE. LOOKING AHEAD, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIVE STANDARDIZATION ISSUES TO CONSIDER BY SPRING 1976. BY THAT TIME WE HOPE THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL HAVE DEVELOPED BASIC PRINCIPLES AS WELL AS A PRELIMINARY PLAN OF ACTION.

WE HOPE THIS LETTER WILL HELP FURTHER EXPLAIN US VIEWS ON

STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS UNDER THE NAC.

I AM PROVIDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER TO ALL PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVES AND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.  
END TEXT.

16. WASHINGTON MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER SIMILAR APPROACHES  
IN CAPITALS TO REINFORCE US VIEWS. ACTION REQUESTED:  
WASHINGTON COMMENTS BY OCTOBER 7. STREATOR

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